Expansion of Mandaor Hill Rail Line

1824. SHRI JANARADAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval for expension of Mandaor Hill rail line from Mandaor Hill to Rampur via Dumka was accorded during the last five years;

(b) whether approval for laying of new rail line from Deoghar to Dumka, Sultanganj to Deoghar via Banka has also been accorded; and

(c) by when the work for these three rail lines would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Deoghar-Dumka new line is an approved work. However, as far as Deoghar-Sultanganj new line is concerned, the survey has been completed. Further action is under progress.

(c) Work would be started once land is made available by the State Govt. and progressed to completion in the coming years.

B.D.R. Gauge Conversion Project

1825. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board sanctioned Rs. 147 crores for entire Bankura Damodar River Gauge Conversion Project, out of which only Rs. 5 crores was earmarked for the year 1999-2000, and the Railway authorities floated tenders for first 20 kms. from Bankura to Beliatore, but the work order is awaiting clearance from the Ministry;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the Project; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The work of Bankura Damodar River (BDR) Gauge Conversion project was included in the Railway Budget, 1998-99, with an anticipated cost of Rs. 100 crore. As per procedure, part-Estimate for the first phase of work on this project from Bankura to Beliatore (20 km.) has been received by Railway Board for sanction from the Zonal Railway and is under process. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges for this phase of work have been invited. Actual work, however, will be taken up only after the Estimate is sanctioned. Work on this Gauge Conversion Project will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Decline in Freight Traffic

1826. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Railways in both passenger as well as freight traffic is declining;

(b) if so, the Railways' share in the Seventh, Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plans in both passenger as well as freight traffic;

(c) the reasons for this declining share; and

(d) the steps taken to attract both the passenger and freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways have carried the following traffic during the VII, VIII and the first two years of the IX-Plan.

	Passenger (BPKM)	Freight (BTKM)
VII Plan	1311	1127
VIII Plan	1614	1302
IX Plan:- 1997-98	380	284
1998-99	395	281